

# CONNECTING TO YOUR FUTURE

This newsletter, by the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, Inc., was created to provide career and labor market information to educators and students.

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## Healthcare



Combining medical technology and the human touch, the health care industry administers care around the clock, responding to the needs of millions of people from newborns to the critically ill. About 545,000 establishments make up the health care industry and varying greatly in terms of size, staffing patterns, and organizational structures. About 76% of health care establishments are offices of physicians, dentists, or other health practitioners. Although hospitals constitute only 2% of all health care establishments, they employ 40% of all workers. Just imagine: working with cutting edge technology and the latest scientific advancements. After an intense day in the emergency room, your ride home flies by as you think, "I helped save a life today."

## Education and Training

Many healthcare jobs require less than four years of college education, although most technical jobs require at least a two year technical degree.

A variety of post-high school programs provide specialized training for jobs in health services. Students preparing for health care careers can enter programs leading to a certificate or a degree at the associate, baccalaureate, professional, or graduate level. Two year programs resulting in certificates or Associate Degrees are the minimum standard credential for occupations such as a dental hygienist or radiological technologist. Some health services establishments provide on-the-job or classroom training, as well as continuing education. Check with your local healthcare facility, technical college, and/or university for the different options available to you!

Source: CareerVoyages.gov

## Bet You Didn't Know

- The health care industry is predicted to add 3.5 million new jobs between 2002 and 2012, an increase of 30%.
- In 2002, total employment in the health services industry was 12.9 million jobs, making it one of the largest industries in the country!
- From 2002 to 2012, 10 of the 20 fastest growing occupations are concentrated in health services. These positions include: medical assistants, physician assistants, home health aides, and medical records and health information technicians.

## Website Highlight - ExploreHealthCareers.org

NOW MORE THAN EVER, if you want to make a real difference in people's lives and make the world a better place, explore a health career. The U.S. is facing a critical shortage of health professionals. Simply put, there aren't enough health care practitioners to take care of all the patients, and there won't be for the foreseeable future. Which means the job outlook is excellent in almost all the health professions.

There are literally hundreds of challenging careers in health. You'll be able to use your unique talents and keep growing throughout your career. Even more important, you'll be doing something that really matters helping, healing, sharing. Working to improve the health of America.

DO SOMETHING THAT MATTERS. FOR  
YOURSELF. FOR OTHERS.

ExploreHealthCareers.org is a free online health careers resource for students and advisors funded by Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation through a grant to the Association of Academic Health Centers. Check out this link <http://www.explorehealthcareers.org> to find out:

- If healthcare is right for you.
- How to prepare for a health career.
- How to pay for school.

The Youth Council, acting under the direction of the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, Inc. (WDB), is working to establish a comprehensive youth development system that provides effective learning environments linking education, employment, leadership development, mentoring, and sustained support for youth to achieve economic self-sufficiency. The WDB is a business-led Board that formulates strategies to address workforce development issues in western Wisconsin. For more information contact Ann Wales, WDB Administrative Coordinator, at (608) 789-5600, [Walesa@wwtc.edu](mailto:Walesa@wwtc.edu), or visit our website at [www.wwjobcenter.org](http://www.wwjobcenter.org).



## Health Care – Allied Health

Did you know that doctors and nurses are only 40% of all health care providers? The other 60% are allied health practitioners. The work of these highly skilled health care providers support, facilitate, and compliment the roles of doctors and nurses. Over 5 million health care providers in the United States work in more than 80 allied health professions, which include:

- dental hygienists;
- diagnostic medical sonographers;
- dietitians;
- medical technologists;
- medical transcriptionists;
- occupational therapists;
- physical therapists;
- radiographers;
- respiratory therapists; and
- speech language pathologists.

Individuals who are trained for allied health professions are in high demand, and this demand will continue in the future. Check out <http://www.CareerVoyages.gov> to learn more about these and other health careers.



## Health Care – Long-Term Care

If you are interested in improving the quality of life for our most vulnerable citizens, then long-term care may be the health care setting for you. Long-term care refers to health services provided to chronically ill, aged, or disabled patients on a continuing and lengthy basis. Care typically takes place in nursing facilities, assisted living residences, and homes for individuals with specific mental retardation or developmental disabilities. The most common health care occupations found in long-term care are that of the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), and the Registered Nurse (RN). Some facilities also employ Resident Assistants (RA), who provide direct personal care services to residents but are not certified as CNAs, and qualified Medical Assistants (MA), who may assist with the administration of medications and treatments.

For more information about direct-care worker jobs go to: <http://www.directcareclearinghouse.org>

### *Sources:*

U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration  
[ExploreHealthCareers.org](http://ExploreHealthCareers.org)  
[CareerVoyages.gov](http://CareerVoyages.gov)



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